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## City of Arlington Press Release

### For Immediate Release

**April 27, 2016**

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## Arlington/Darrington advance to the Finals of the America's Best Communities Competition

(Arlington, WA) – After a whirlwind trip to Durham, North Carolina, full of meetings and engaging sessions with 14 other communities across the country, Arlington-Darrington was announced as one of the eight community finalists in the America's Best Communities Competition.

Moving to the final round, Arlington/Darrington will have 11 months to implement the eleven strategies outlined in our [Community Revitalization Plan](#). The eight finalist communities will receive a \$100,000 grant to begin to execute their revitalization strategies. After one year of implementing their plans, three communities will be named grand-prize winners, with \$3 million awarded to the first-place community, \$2 million for second place and \$1 million for third.

"We are honored to be selected to move forward to the finals of the ABC Competition," stated Mayor Dan Rankin. He continued, "The work to implement our Community Revitalization Plan begins today. Our plan is multi-layered and focuses on meeting the diverse needs and aspirations of the Stillaguamish Valley, while encouraging economic growth, providing a high quality of life, and supporting our strong community spirit and pride.

"We are excited to engage our communities even more in this implementation to move our communities to the ultimate goal of economic stability, sustainability, and resiliency," stated Mayor Barb Tolbert. She concluded, "The communities of Arlington and Darrington have shown incredible resiliency and ingenuity over the years. We are excited to continue our journey with the ABC Competition and accomplish the goals we have set for ourselves to make our communities more resilient."

The communities of Arlington and Darrington have been privileged to be work alongside many individuals, community partners, and businesses of all sizes to bring the elements of the Community Revitalization Plan to reality. We wish to thank the following for their support of the Arlington-Darrington ABC efforts: Washington State University, Universal Aerospace, Metal Finishing Inc., Aerospace Manufacturing Technologies, Absolute Manufacturing, The Everett Clinic, Sno-Isle Libraries, Global Machine Works, Arlington Fly-in, State Farm Insurance, Eco Ventures, Living Well Together, Stillaguamish Athletic Club, Darrington IGA, Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, Darrington Strong, Downtown Arlington Business Association, Martha Rasmussen, Stephan Somsen, Lavinia Bryson, and Judy Pendergrass.

In addition, we wish to thank our advisors, Governor Jay Inslee, Brian Bonlender, Washington Department of Commerce, Sally Hintz, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell, Ken Klein, Snohomish County Councilmember, Glenn Coil and John Monroe with Economic Alliance Snohomish County, Curt Moulton, WSU Extension, Martha Aitken, WSU Extension, and Ken Baldwin, Frontier Communications.

ABC is a \$10 million economic revitalization initiative sponsored by Frontier Communications, DISH Network, CoBank and The Weather Channel. Frontier Communications and its partners launched this campaign in September 2014, and attracted over 300 communities to participate. Arlington and Darrington partnered early on in the competition to jointly pursue the America's Best Communities prize.

During the quarterfinal round of the competition, 50 communities were awarded \$50,000 to develop Community Revitalization Plans. To determine semifinalists, the panel of judges reviewed each community's plan and scored them based on potential impact and expected effectiveness.

You can follow Arlington-Darrington's journey on their websites and Facebook pages, and see how all of the communities prepared for the Summit on the America's Best Communities' Facebook page and Twitter.

To read the Community Revitalization Plan that Arlington-Darrington prepared for the ABC competition, visit this [link](#). The revitalization plans of the 8 finalists, 15 semifinalists and all 50 quarterfinalists are accessible on each community's page in the "Meet the Communities" section of [www.americasbestcommunities.com](http://www.americasbestcommunities.com).

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